

AF FORM 112-PAR
 APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY GERMANY <i>C/S Only</i>	REPORT NO. 51E-14035	(LEAVE BLANK) <i>EP 146 810</i>
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Socio-Political Requirements for Newly-Returned German PWs	(INTERVIEWER) HIRSCH, Peter A/1C, USAF	(EDITOR) WULLSCHLEGER
AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency) 7050th AITW (USAF)	
DATE OF REPORT 26-27 Jul 1954	DATE OF INFORMATION Jun 44 to Dec 53	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) J. L. FESER, Major, USAF	SOURCE 220322	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) 'HICOG'		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
A. <u>Biographical Information:</u> 1. SOURCE was born on 13 Aug 1899 at PRAGUE (50 05N/14 25E). He had 4 years of elementary school, 8 years of secondary school, and 8 semester at university. He became a physician in 1926 and was intermittently in China and Japan from 1927 to 1939. SOURCE was able to write and speak Russian fluently. 2. Prison "BUDERSKAYA" at MOSKVA (55 45N/37 35E), as political prisoner from Jun 44 to Jun 47, no work; no close contact with Russian prisoners. Intermittently from Jun 47 to Dec 48 as physician in PW camps # ?/2/4/9 at KIYEV (50 27N/30 32E), no contact with Russian civilians; intermittently from Dec 48 to Jan 50 as physician in PW camps # 5110/25 and /27 at ODESSA (46 30N/30 40E), occasionally SOURCE had close contact with Russian civilians while treating them at a sanatorium. From Jan 50 to Feb 51 as physician at PW camp # 44 at BREST LITOVSK (52 05N/23 43E), no contact with Russian civilians. From Feb 51 to Aug 51 in prison at PW camp # 5110/43 at MINSK (53 50N/27 35E), no contact with Russian civilians. From Aug 51 to Dec 53 as physician in forced labor camp # 026.5110/37 at TAISHET (55 57N/98 02E), close contact with Russian civilians. a. In Feb 51, while in MINSK, SOURCE was ordered before a military and MVD tribunal where a letter from Attorney General GROMYSHENKO in MOSKVA was read to him accusing him of having worked with the British Intelligence Service and with the American Office of Strategic Services. SOURCE assumed that his knowledge of foreign languages, as Czech, English (his mother was of English descent), French, Russian, and Japanese caused these accusations. SOURCE had to acknowledge receipt of this letter without being allowed to read it. On 22 Jun 51, SOURCE was sentenced according to paragraph 68a of the White Russian Criminal Code to death with no appeal allowed and was sent in Aug 51 to TAISHET. In Jan 53, while at TAISHET, he was notified by a letter from Attorney General GROMYSHENKO that his death sentence was reduced to 25 years of hard labor. As far as SOURCE knew, no prisoners of war, sentenced for war or so-called "grave crimes against peace and humanity" have been released. Those released were sentenced without proof as in the case of SOURCE and were favored by a decree of General RUDENKO, successor of Attorney General GROMYSHENKO who was arrested and shot in Mar 1953, as SOURCE read in the newspaper PRAVDA. 3. SOURCE, a quiet type of man of high intelligence, was very cooperative throughout interview. He expressed himself clearly and fluently. His ability to remember details was good. Crosschecks on information rendered revealed no inconsistencies. INCL.		
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Air Force—USAF, Wsbn, Ger-123-3752

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	2	OF	5	PAGES
7050th AISW (USAF)	51B-14035					

B. Soviet Attitude toward General Political Problems:

4. The farmers were particularly opposed to the Soviet Regime because their delivery quota of foodstuff was too high and hardly any food supplies were left for themselves. Further the hard work on farms rested on the shoulders of women and children because most of the male farmers had been arrested for political reasons and no male workers were assigned by the Soviet Government to farm work. Also Russian officers and soldiers who had been in Germany during WW II, and of whom many had been sentenced to at least 15 years of hard labor, were opposed to the Soviet Regime.

5. SOURCE considered the party functionaries, MVD and MGB officials as strong supporters of the Soviet Regime because they were afraid of being eliminated in case of a revolution. Most of the key positions in the USSR, especially in the Department of Justice, were in the hands of Jews.

6. The major sources of discontent among the Soviet population prior to STALIN's death were 1: Insufficient wages; according to official statements 60% of the Russian population were hardly able to buy their daily necessities of life. 2: Inadequate housing conditions for farm workers who mostly had to live with cattle in wooden sheds. 3: High prices for clothing and shoes. 4: Privileges for the intelligentsia who had to pay less money for goods than the working class. 5: The fear of being arrested even for minor causes.

C. Events following the Death of STALIN:

7. STALIN was not liked much by the Russian population because he had ruled with brutal force, was blamed for having lowered the living standards of the lower class as farmers and non-specialized workers, and had not carried out the doctrines of LENIN who in the opinion of the Russian population had cared more for the people, especially for the lower class and was therefore more liked than STALIN. SOURCE had talked about this subject to Doctor BARINOFF, in the rank of Major, who inspected Forced Labor Camps and to MOROSOV, President of collective farmers at TAISHET.

8. MVD Major SHWEDZ, commander of forced labor camp at TAISHET, reacted to the death of STALIN with the sentence "That was his best deed" and SOURCE stated that most of the Russians he met were of the same opinion. The Russian abbreviation CCCR was read by the people as "Smert Stalina Spasila Rossii" meaning "STALIN's Death saved Russia".

9. Concerning political prisoners SOURCE had no evidence that the amnesty act of March 27, 1953, was carried out. However, he was told by the Russian Capt NOVIKOFF at TAISHET, acting liaison officer between forced labor camps and ministry of justice that criminals as murderers and thieves, amounting to about 2% of the 120-130,000 prisoners interned in forced labor camps in the vicinity of TAISHET, had been released. He also told SOURCE that the above mentioned amnesty act was acknowledged with enthusiasm by the Russian population and that this move was considered in line with the new political course under MALENKOV.

10. A reform of the amnesty act of Mar 27, 1953 was published in the newspaper "PRAVDA" in Jul 1953, stating that times to be served were to be reduced by two-thirds. SOURCE had not heard of any plans or steps to carry out this reform.

11. The Russian population was not satisfied with the price reduction law of Apr 1, 1953, because with the reduction of prices the wages were lowered and in general the population had expected more of the post-STALIN government in the way of more foodstuff, adequate housing conditions, and free choice of work.

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AF FORM 112-PAR

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
7050th AISW (USAFE)	51B-14035	3	5	

12. The arrest of the "Kremlin Doctors" had incited fears that a general purge was in the making as stated by free Russian workers at TAISHET. It had been stated in the newspaper "PRAVDA" that the charges against the "Kremlin Doctors" had been untrue and that witnesses who had made false accusations had been sentenced to 25 years of hard labor. The prestige of the Soviet government had been lowered by these untrue accusations. In general Russian civilians believed that the "Kremlin Doctors" had been responsible for the death of STALIN and the Czechoslovakian president GOTTWALD and that BERIA and the Jewish International Relief Association had been responsible for the release of the "Kremlin Doctors".

13. The Jun 17 revolt in East BERLIN and East Germany was looked upon by the Russian population as a movement for freedom. The people sympathized with the German workers but believed that the revolt was the doing of the Western Powers. As the result of the Jun 17 revolt German men, women, and Russian soldiers, who had refused to shoot at German civilians, had been sent as prisoners to forced labor camps in the area of TAISHET. The last transport of these prisoners, about 1200 men and women arrived in TAISHET from POTSDAM (52 24N/13 04E) on 5 Dec 1953. (SOURCE left TAISHET on 6 Dec 1953).

14. According to free Russian workers at TAISHET the reason for BERIA's downfall was a showdown between BERIA and MALENKOV and that latter was responsible for BERIA's arrest. In Apr 53 rumors circulated among Russian civilians that BERIA and the Son of STALIN had been arrested. Russian forced laborers at TAISHET did not like the arrest of BERIA because they thought that by this arrest the amnesty act of Mar 27, 1953, would not be put into effect. In Jun/Jul 1953 it was stated in the newspaper "PRAVDA" that 18 Generals of the MVD and MGB, besides leading officials of the Labor Union, had been arrested.

15. SOURCE stated that after MALENKOV's speech outlinign a new economic policy no more consumers goods appeared on the market and that there was still a shortage, especially in milk. The Russian population showed the new economic policy a "Cold shoulder" because similar promises had been made already and had never been carried out.

17. In the opinion of MOROSOV, president of the collective farmers at TAISHET, MALENKOV was the real power in the Soviet government and Marshall VOROSHILOV, who was well liked by the Russian Army, the strongest adversary of MALENKOV.

18. SOURCE had the impression that the post-STALIN Government was liked by the Russian population but he was told by the above mentioned MOROSOV, that the improved living conditions and promises made by the Soviet Government would last only for a short time because, as MOROSOV said, "where nothing is available, nothing can be handed out".

D. Purges, Resistance Activities and Mass Arrests:

19. SOURCE, as inmate of forced labor camp at TAISHET, had met and talked to the following prisoners:

1) ROMAN VOLOSHIN, a West Urkainian, born at L'VOV (49 50N/24 00E), 30 years old, who told SOURCE that he had been a leader of the "BANDEROFF" Group which fought against the MVD and had slain 6 MVD officials in the West Ukraine. He was arrested together with 18 men of above mentioned group in Jan 53 and had been sentenced to 25 years of forced labor.

2) GERSHON, a Gruzinian, 62 years old, birth place unknown, who had fought against the Communists since 1927. He had been arrested in Dec 52 for organizing terrorist groups in Gruzinia and was sentenced in MINSK in Jun 53 to 25 years of forced labor.

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AF FORM 112—PART II
 APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
7050th AISW (USAFE)	51B-14035	4	5	

3) Dr. STANKAITIS, a Lithuanian, 56 years old, born in KAUNAS, a former official of the Board of Education at KAUNAS, who had fought as partisan against the Russian Army. He had been sentenced in MINSK to 25 years of forced labor.

4) Major NEKRASOFF, a Russian, 40-42 years old, born in NOVGOROD, who had been charged with undermining the discipline of Russian soldiers and who had been sentenced in MOSKVA in 1951 to 25 years of forced labor.

5) FORTUNATOFF, the former Soviet Consul at SHANGHAI (31 15N/121 29E), 50 years old, born in MOSKVA, who had been charged with conspiring with the British Consul at SHANGHAI. He was arrested by Chinese Communists and turned over to the Soviets in 1946 and was sentenced in MOSKVA in 1948 to 25 years of forced labor.

22. Dr. BARINOFF, mentioned in Pt 7, told SOURCE that 53 forced labor and silence camps existed in the vicinity of TAISHET and that altogether 120,000-130,000 prisoners were interned there and that many Lithuanians Estonians and Latvians who had been deported for anti-Soviet activity and collaboration with the German Army were among them. He also heard from this doctor that about 18,000 VOLGA Germans were living in restricted areas in the vicinity of KRASNOYARSK (56 02N/92 48E).

E. Forced Labor Camps:

23. From Aug 51 to Dec 53, SOURCE was interned in forced labor camp # 026.5110/37 at TAISHET in the capacity of a physician. This camp was located 2 km S of the Transsiberian RR and was surrounded by dense forest. Altogether 1756 male prisoners were interned here including 1477 Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians, 40 Koreans, 80 Chinese, 6 Japanese, 26 Germans, 1 Indian (Professor from CALCUTTA (22 34N/88 24E)), 1 Iraqi, 6 Persians, 1 Czech, and 180 Russians, all of them had been sentenced for political reasons as espionage, terrorism, and high treason against the Soviet regime. The prisoners worked mostly as lumberjacks and in saw mills. Some were detailed to maintenance duties and improvements of RR tracks. The camp was enclosed by a barbed wire topped board fence cutting off the inmates from the outside world. The camp consisted of winter proof wooden barracks including bathing facilities, canteens and messhalls. Barracks were overcrowded. There was a hospital barrack in the camp where sick prisoners were taken care of by imprisoned physicians. The death rate of inmates was normal and there were hardly epidemics. Adequate clothing either for summer or winter was issued. Food rations were insufficient compared with the heavy work done, and lacked fat as well as vitamins. Inmates were periodically entertained by orchestral concerts, variety shows with players composed of prisoners. Religious services and festivities were forbidden.

24. While SOURCE was in prison "BUDERSKAYA" in MOSKVA from Jun 44 to Jun 47 he met and talked about 2-3 times, the last time in Dec 46 to an American citizen, by name THOMSON, a Major of the USAF. He was about 35 years, 1.72 m tall, slender figure, oval face, sharp features, black hair, and was dressed all the time in USAF uniform with no insignias. Place of birth and residence unknown. THOMSON who spoke with a southern accent told SOURCE that he had been a former employee of the TEXAS Oil Company. During an aerial attack on Germany in 1944, his squadron had been dispersed by German fighters and THOMSON trying to head for Sweden had engine trouble and landed in Russian territory hoping to be treated as an allied officer. Instead of it he was arrested as a spy. SOURCE did not know what happened to THOMSON after he had seen him last in Dec 46.

25. On 1st May 1953 the Soviet Government issued a decree according to which the forced labor camps were not any more under the supervision of the MVD but of the Department of Justice. According to this decree the following changes became effective: (1) prisoners were paid regularly and on time for their work (2) a food shop was set up in forced labor camp where inmates were allowed to buy additional

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7050th AISW (USAFE)	51B-14035	5	5	
food (3) guards were told not to use abusive language toward prisoners and were ordered not to shoot to kill prisoners on escape attempts. Within seven months in 1952 eleven prisoners were shot to death while trying to escape. MVD Major BORODIN at forced labor camp at TAISHET told SOURCE that all forced laborers of foreign nationalities were to be sent to a prison still under constr at ALMAZNAYA (48 31N/38 35E). F. <u>Foreign Radio Broadcast:</u> 33. SOURCE was told by MOROSOV that only Party officials, after having been issued a special permit, were allowed to own shortwave receivers. <i>D. M. Allison</i> D. M. ALLISON Colonel, United States Air Force Commander <i>Mr. Mr. Feser major USAF</i> J. L. FESER Major, USAF Commander 7051 AISS				

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